

## Amendments to the Claims

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A substantially flat ~~An~~ elongated sheet of light gauge metal having a nominal width from which one or more truss chord members may be formed, said sheet comprising along the length thereof one or more pairs of opposing notches, the portion of said sheet intermediate each of said pairs of opposing notches forming a respective narrow portion, wherein at least one of said narrow portions includes a grid of apertures and wherein at least one of said narrow portions being intermediate portions of said sheet of nominal width.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The sheet of Claim 36 wherein said grid of apertures is at least six inches long.

39. (Previously Presented) The sheet of Claim 36 wherein said grid of apertures includes at least twenty spaced apart apertures.

40-71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently Amended) A blank from which one or more truss chord members may be formed, said blank comprising ~~an~~ a substantially flat elongated sheet of light gauge metal having at least two wide portions with substantially parallel longitudinal edges and a narrow portion intermediate said wide portions, said narrow portion having substantially parallel longitudinal edges each spaced from the central longitudinal axis of said sheet a distance less than the longitudinal edges of said wide portions are spaced from said central longitudinal axis, said narrow portion including a

grid of apertures.

73. (Previously Presented) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said grid of apertures is disposed substantially adjacent to at least one of the longitudinal edges of said narrow portion.

74. (Previously Presented) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said grid of apertures is at least six inches long.

75. (Previously Presented) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said grid of apertures includes at least twenty spaced apart apertures.

76. (Previously Presented) The blank of Claim 72 wherein at least one of said wide portions includes a further grid of apertures.

77. (Previously Presented) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said grid of apertures is disposed between one of said longitudinal edges of said narrow portion and the longitudinal axis of said sheet; said blank further comprising a second grid of apertures disposed between the other longitudinal edge of said narrow portion and the longitudinal axis of said sheet.

78. (Previously Presented) The blank of Claim 72 comprising a pair of aperture grids positioned substantially symmetrically about the longitudinal axis of said sheet.

79. (Previously Presented) The blank of Claim 72 comprising at least one aperture disposed symmetrically about the longitudinal axis of said sheet with one of the apertures in said grid of apertures.

80. (Previously Presented) The blank of Claim 72 wherein said narrow portion has a pair of opposing notches disposed along the length thereof.